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SOME COMPUTATIONS RELATIVE TO THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF MAY 28, 1900.

By S. C. Phipps.

While studying the theory of eclipses in the course in advanced practical astronomy under Dr. Townley, some computations were made for the eclipse of May 28, 1900.

Starting with the data given in the *American Ephemeris*, the elements of the eclipse, rising and setting limits, maximum in the horizon, northern and southern limits, curve of central eclipse, and northern and southern limits of the total eclipse, were computed according to the methods given in Chauvenet's "Spherical and Practical Astronomy." In most cases the results agree exactly with those printed in the *Ephemeris*, the greatest difference being one tenth of a minute in some of the latitudes and longitudes. About three fourths of the above work was also computed by Mr. B. A. Baird.

The circumstances of the eclipse for Mr. Burckhalter's station near Union Point, Georgia, (latitude 33° 36′ north, and longitude 83° 3′.2 west,) were computed, giving the following results:—

	Local Mean Time (Ast.)			
Beginning of eclipse......	May 27th,	19^{h}	00^{m}	57^{s}
End of eclipse		21	26	34
Duration of eclipse		2	25	37
Beginning of total eclipse .		20	8	16
End of total eclipse......		20	9	40
Duration of total eclipse..			1	24

	First Contact.	Fourth Contact.
Position-angle,	256° 32.′2	76° 33.′4

The position-angle is measured from the north point of the Sun's image toward the east.

The eclipse will be seen as a partial one in California, and in the neighborhood of San Francisco the eclipse will begin before sunrise. I have computed the circumstances of the eclipse for the Student's Observatory, Berkeley, (latitude 37° 52′.4 north, longitude 122° 15′.5 west,) and for the Davidson Observatory, San Francisco, (latitude 37° 47′.5 north, longitude 122° 25′ 7 west,) giving the following results:—

Maximum of eclipse:
Berkeley, May 28th, $5^h\ 37^m\ 35^s$ A. M., P. S. T.
San Francisco, May 28th, $5^h\ 37^m\ 31^s$ A. M., P. S. T.

End of eclipse:
Berkeley, May 28th, $6^h\ 27^m\ 40^s$ A. M., P. S. T.
San Francisco, May 28th, $6^h\ 27^m\ 36^s$ A. M., P. S. T.

Greatest obscuration:
Berkeley, 0.5104.
San Francisco, 0.5107.

Position-angle of fourth contact:
Berkeley, 107° 46′.3
San Francisco, 107° 46′.1.

The amount of obscuration indicates that the Moon will cover a little more than half the Sun's diameter.

Sttdents' Observatory,
University of California, March 23, 1900.

PLANETARY PHENOMENA FOR MAY AND JUNE, 1900.

By Malcolm McNeill.

May.

Eclipse.— There will be a total eclipse of the Sun on the morning of May 28th. The total eclipse begins at sunrise in the Pacific off the coast of Mexico, and the line of totality crosses the United States from Louisiana to Virginia; thence crossing the Atlantic to Spain; thence through Spain and North Africa to Egypt, where it ends at sunset. Unfortunately, the duration of totality is short — less than two minutes from any land station where it can be seen. It will be visible as a partial eclipse throughout the United States.

Mercury is a morning star until May 29th, when it passes superior conjunction and becomes an evening star, but is not far enough away from the Sun to be easily visible at any time during the month.

Venus having passed greatest east elongation in April, has now begun to approach the Sun, and the distance lessens about 5° during the month; the interval also between sunset and the